

III. Remarks

Reconsideration of this application in light of these amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Previous independent claims 1 and 15 have been amended and new independent claim 25 has been added. Previous dependent claims 7, 8, 11, 18, 19, and 21 have been amended; previous dependent claims 2-6, 9, 10, 12-17, 20, and 22-24 have been maintained in their previous form; and new dependent claims 26-32 have been added.

Although some of the previous claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yuan, et al., this patent is not applicable to amended claim 1 for the following reasons.

Amended claim 1 now recites at least one insert provided in a corresponding opening in the body member and being fabricated from a ceramic material; and at least one insert provided in a corresponding opening in the body member and being fabricated from a metallic/ceramic composite material.

The PTO provides in MPEP §2131 that:

"[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim."

Therefore, to support these rejections with respect to claim 1, the Yuan, et al. patent must contain all of the above-claimed elements of the claim. However, this patent does not disclose at least one insert provided in a corresponding opening in the body member and being fabricated from a ceramic material; and at least one insert provided in a corresponding opening in the body member and being fabricated from a metallic/ceramic composite material.

As a result, the previous rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §102(b) cannot be supported by the Yuan, et al. patent as applied to amended claim 1.

The Yuan, et al., patent is also not applicable to amended independent claim 15 for the following reasons.

Amended claim 15 recites fabricating at least one insert from a ceramic material; inserting the insert in a corresponding opening in a body member; fabricating at least

one additional insert from a metallic/ceramic composite material; and inserting the additional insert in a corresponding opening in the body member.

As stated above, the PTO provides in MPEP §2131 that:

"[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim."

Therefore, to support these rejections with respect to claim 15, the Yuan, et al. patent must contain all of the above-claimed elements of the claim. However, this patent does not disclose fabricating at least one insert from a ceramic material; inserting the insert in a corresponding opening in a body member; fabricating at least one additional insert from a metallic/ceramic composite material; and inserting the additional insert in a corresponding opening in the body member.

As a result, the previous rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §102(b) cannot be supported by the Yuan, et al., patent as applied to amended claim 15.

The Yuan, et al., patent is also not applicable to new independent claim 25 for the following reasons.

Amended claim 25 recites at least two inserts provided in corresponding openings in a body member, one of the inserts being less susceptible to chipping than the other insert; and the other insert being more millable than the one insert.

As stated above, the PTO provides in MPEP §2131 that:

"[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim."

Therefore, to support these rejections with respect to claim 25, the Yuan, et al., patent must contain all of the above-claimed elements of the claim. However, this patent does not disclose at least two inserts provided in corresponding openings in a body member, one of the inserts being less susceptible to chipping than the other insert; and the other insert being more millable than the one insert.

As a result, the previous rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §102(b) cannot be supported by the Yuan, et al., patent as applied to amended claim 25.

Dependent claims 2-14, 16-24, and 26-32 depend from, and further limit, independent claims 1, 15, and 25, respectively, in a patentable sense and therefore are allowable as well.

In view of all of the above, the allowance of claims 1-32 is respectfully requested.

The examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Warren B. Kice
Registration No. 22,732

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HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP
901 Main Street, Suite 3100
Dallas, Texas 75212-3789
Telephone: 214/651-5634
IP Facsimile No. 214/200-0853
File: 30545.81

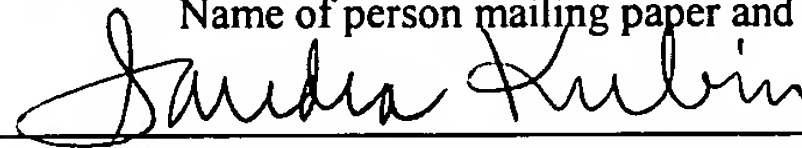
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